



**Ninety-Ninth Legislature - First Session - 2005**  
**Introducer's Statement of Intent**  
**LB 726**

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**Chairperson:** Patrick J. Bourne  
**Committee:** Judiciary  
**Date of Hearing:** February 11, 2005

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB726 would direct law enforcement to utilize the Crisis Response Teams created as a product of LB1083 passed in 2004. This bill implements the use of the Crisis Response Teams, when an individual is being investigated or examined for purposes of determining whether Emergency Protective Custody (E.P.C.) is necessary.

Under LB726 when a law enforcement officer comes into contact with a person who may be in need of Emergency Protective Custody (E.P.C.), the law enforcement officer shall bring this individual to the nearest Crisis Response Team. The Crisis Response Team shall then conduct their evaluation and make their recommendation as to whether an E.P.C. is necessary. Under this bill, the law enforcement officer is required to follow the Crisis Response Team's recommendation. In the event that the individual in question has been released due to the Crisis Response Team's recommendation, the law enforcement officer will not be held liable for any harm caused by the released individual.

This Legislation will authorize the use of the pre-existing Crisis Response Teams. Currently, the creation of Crisis Response Teams is not authorized anywhere in statute. This bill will statutorily authorize the Division of Behavioral Health Services to create a Crisis Response Team in each behavioral health region. These teams shall be designed and staffed to provide 24-hour service, seven days a week.

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Senator Arnie M. Stuthman**